

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

**March 4 2008 TORNADOES**

**SITUATION REPORT #4**

**1300 Hours March 7, 2008**

*New information is in BOLD ITALICS.*

*The Next Situation report will be March 10 2008 at 1300 hours.*

## SUMMARY

In the early evening hours of March 4 a cold front moving across the Commonwealth generated storm activity. These storms produced rain, wind and reported tornadoes. National Weather Service will conduct inspections during the day March 5, 2008 to make this determination. The NWS is receiving reports of storm related damage from across the Commonwealth. Preliminary damage reports have been received from several jurisdictions and state agencies. No injuries or deaths have been reported. The NWS Morristown confirmed that an F1 Tornado did touch down in Big Stone Gap, Wise County Virginia.

## EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with augmented staffing.

**State of Emergency:** Governor Kaine declared a State of Emergency at 1119 hours 5 March 2008.

**Federal Declaration:** No declaration has been requested at this time.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared by:  
Wise County at 1800 hours 4 March 2008  
Town of Big Stone Gap at 1700 hours 4 March 2008  
Essex County at 0800 hours 5 March 2008

## WEATHER

**Forecast:**

**Western Virginia:**  
Tonight: *Periods of rain, mainly before 1am. Areas of fog between 10pm and 1am. Low around 40. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch possible.*  
Saturday: *A chance of rain showers before 4pm, then a slight chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a temperature falling to around 32 by 5pm. Breezy, with a west wind 7 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 23 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.*  
*Extreme SW VA Snow Showers in the morning and early afternoon. A chance of rain showers in the afternoon. A chance of snow showers late in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 5 inches. Total snow accumulation up to 6 inches in higher elevations. Near steady temperature in the lower 30s. West winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.*

**Eastern Virginia:**  
Tonight: *Occasional rain. Low around 49. Northeast wind between 4 and 7 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.*  
Saturday: *Periods of showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 1pm, then a chance of showers. High near 61. Breezy, with a southeast wind 9 to 12 mph becoming west between 19 and 22 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a half and three quarters of an inch possible.*

## OPERATIONS SECTION

**Local Liaison:** Regional Coordinators and Hazardous Materials Officers are maintaining contact with localities with regard to resources.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

**ESF 9 – Search and Rescue:** One SAR request made for Big Stone Gap in Wise County. This request was withdrawn prior to arrival of Blue Diamond ground search team. Region 4 Technical Rescue Team assisted Wise County.

**ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:** Virginia Department of Health (VDH)  
Agency reports one manufactured home damaged in Russell County. Agency personnel, including MRC, on standby to support sheltering as are other resources. VDH reported that all shelters closed at midnight 4 March, no evacuees required sheltering. No injuries were reported during the night. Damage assessments continue.

**ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:** Virginia State Police (VSP)  
A VSP Pilot was scheduled to fly VDEM Regional Coordinator in an over flight of the damaged area to obtain pictorial images of damage, however the flight was cancelled. Virginia State Police report possible tornado in Prince William County overturning vehicles on I-95. Flooding also reported in the Dumfries area.  
***The report of a tornado in Prince William County on 5 March causing vehicles to overturn on I-95 is unconfirmed. Prince William County advised of no reports of tornado activity on that day.***

### INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

**ESF 1 – Transportation:** Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Agency responded to request for signage from Wise County. No VDOT facilities have been reported as damaged. In the Bristol District, VDOT crews are working on scattered tree removals in Washington, Smyth, Wythe, and Grayson Counties. They also have trees in the Coeburn and Glade Morgan Areas. No reported lane closures. VDOT to provide 2 front end loaders, transportation, chainsaws and safety equipment to support DOC personnel in debris removal in Big Stone Gap on 5 March at 1735 hours.

**ESF 12 – Energy:** Power to the affected areas continues to be restored and minimal customers are currently impacted.

### LOGISTICS SECTION

**ESF 7 – Resource Support:** Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)  
3 requests for assistance were cancelled. 1 Request was completed. ***6 requests are currently in progress.*** On 3/05/2008 VDEM Regional Coordinator cancelled his request to the VSP for an over flight of the damaged area in Big Stone Gap. The Department of Corrections will provide 20 inmates to assist in the debris removal from the Big Stone Gap area requested 1635 hours 3/5/2008.

### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

**Wise County:** Reports 6 houses destroyed, 15 with major damage, 25 with moderate or lesser damage. EOC is open and local emergency declared. One shelter was opened, but closed at midnight 4 March. Red Cross located at the Mountain Empire Older Citizen facility is providing feeding and other services to citizens. ***RADA contacted the EOC Coordinator to request an area to set up for assisting the noninsured and renters who suffered loss from the tornado. Wise EOC is attempting to confirm resource requests with BSG Town Manager. A resource request has been submitted for four portable toilets for Camp 18 crew, which is an armed guard***

***crew. IDA teams reassembled this morning and will be in field all day. Wise EOC has been in contact with VDEM PA personnel.***

**Essex County:** ***9 residences were damaged, 7 moderate, 1 major and 1 most likely destroyed. Essex Vol. Fire Dept. had roof damage of \$30,000 and Essex High School had \$50,000 damage to roof and bleachers. 2 businesses, South Tech (\$10,000 damage to roof) and Tappahannock Vet Hospital (\$10,000 damage to a roof).***

**Westmoreland County:** Sustained damages in the Nomini Grove, Hauge and Coles Point areas. Trees are down across the county. Reports 3 agricultural barns destroyed, 2 agricultural barns with damage and 1 fire station damaged but still operational.

**Goochland County** An unconfirmed tornado touched down in the Hadensville area affecting 5 Addresses with minor to moderate damage. No residences were affected. Damage was limited to outbuildings, carports and trees. Two businesses were damaged. Total damage estimates are less than \$100,000.

**Louisa County** ***Damage to 4 structures was reported with one destroyed. Roads were blocked by downed trees with VDOT working to reopen the roads. Damage assessment is being conducted. No State resources have been requested. Report received on 03/06/2008.***

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